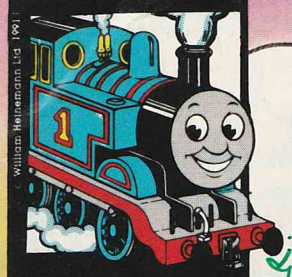
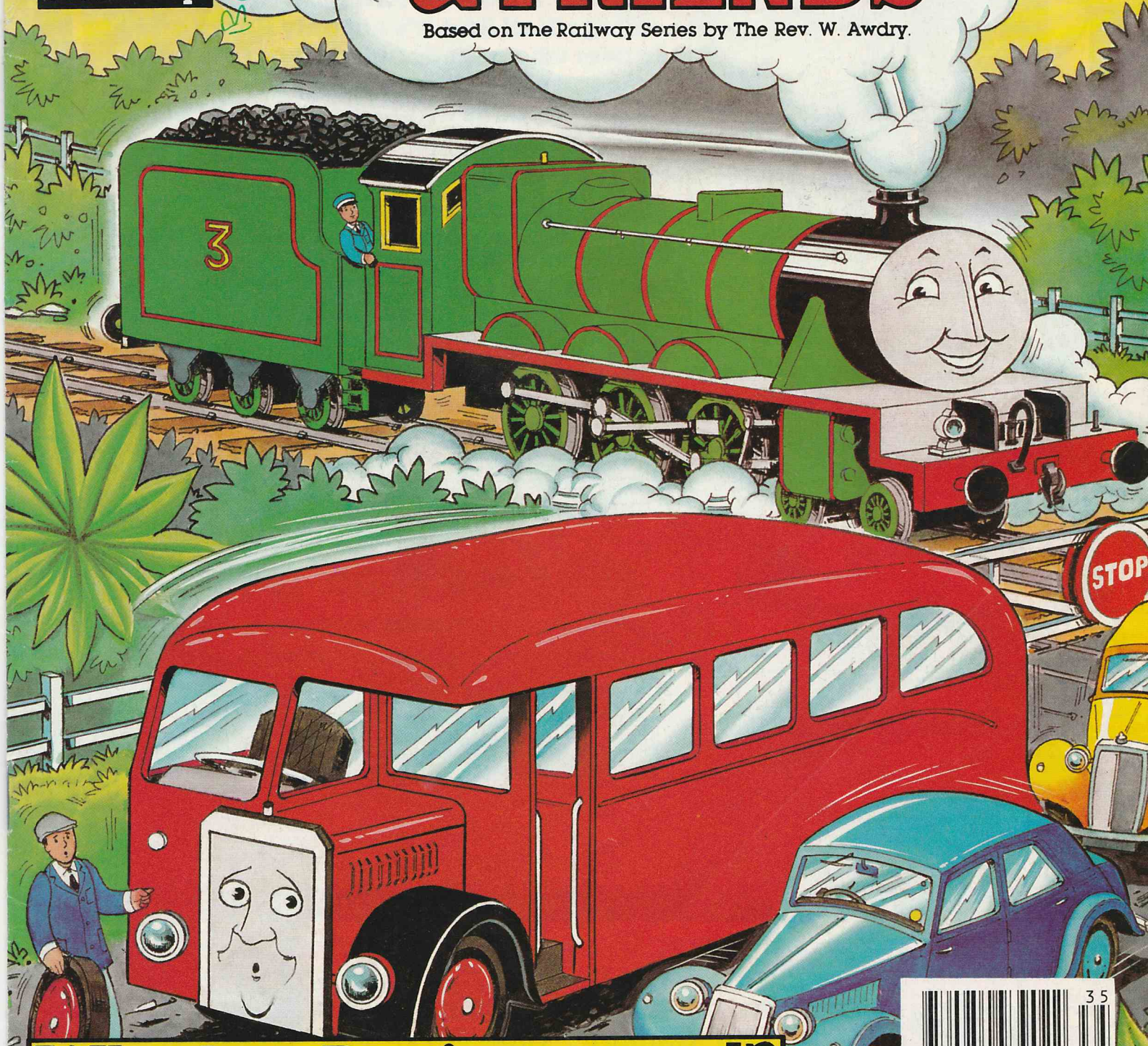
MARVEL®



31st August 1991
No 101 50p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Why has Bertie stopped?

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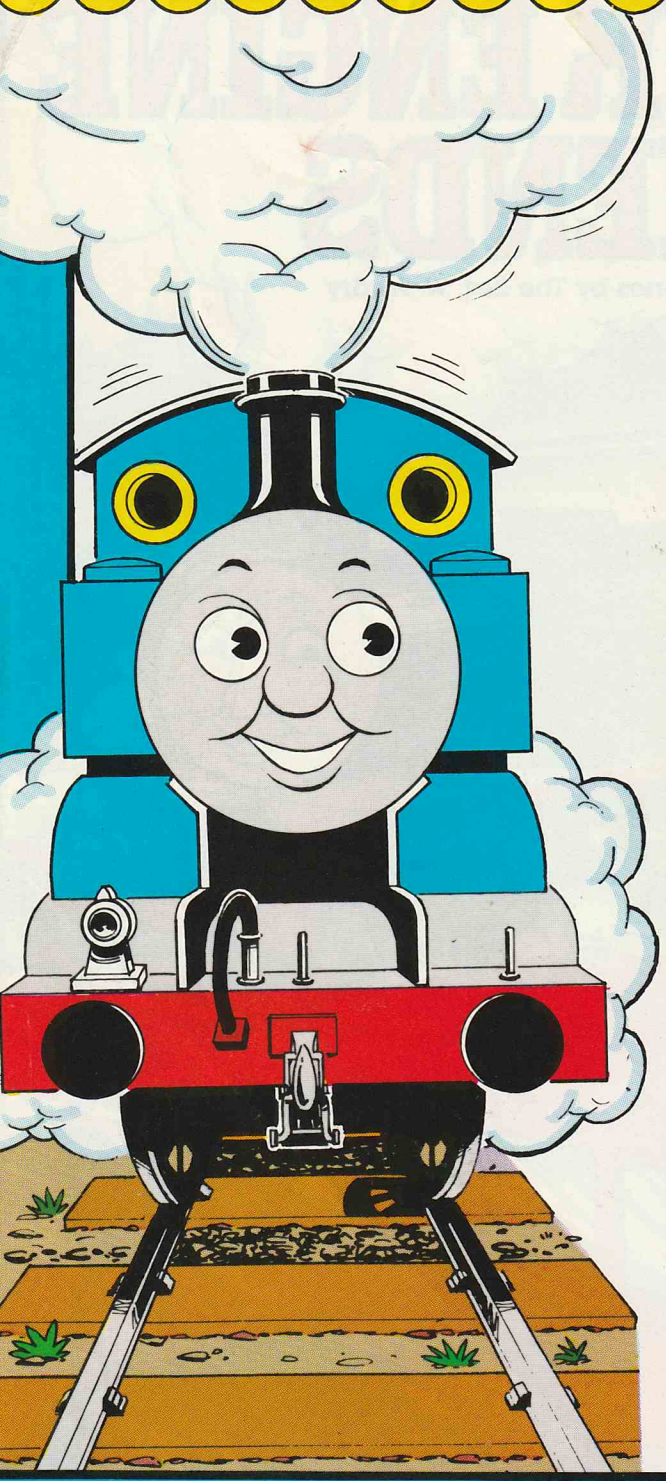
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Henry is a really speedy engine who works very hard on the Island of Sodor! Usually, Henry doesn't find it difficult to pick up speed! However, in the story that begins on the next page, poor Henry finds himself not only slowing down but stopping altogether! And it's not only Henry and his driver who are confused! Don't miss our second story either where you can find out what happens when the trains don't keep to their timetables!

NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

Starting in this issue and continuing for a further 7 issues, we'll be giving away a splendid **Thomas, James and Henry 3-piece diecast set** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd* to the sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER**! So, if you have any questions or even an amusing story for the Fat Controller, send it in for the chance to win this charming gift! Write today without any further delay!

EXCITING COMPETITION NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue where you'll have the chance to win one of **36** splendid **Thomas Miniature Playsets**, from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

In our next issue; Duck feels like a ★ ★ ★ new engine! ★ ★ ★

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode..... **Date of birth**.....

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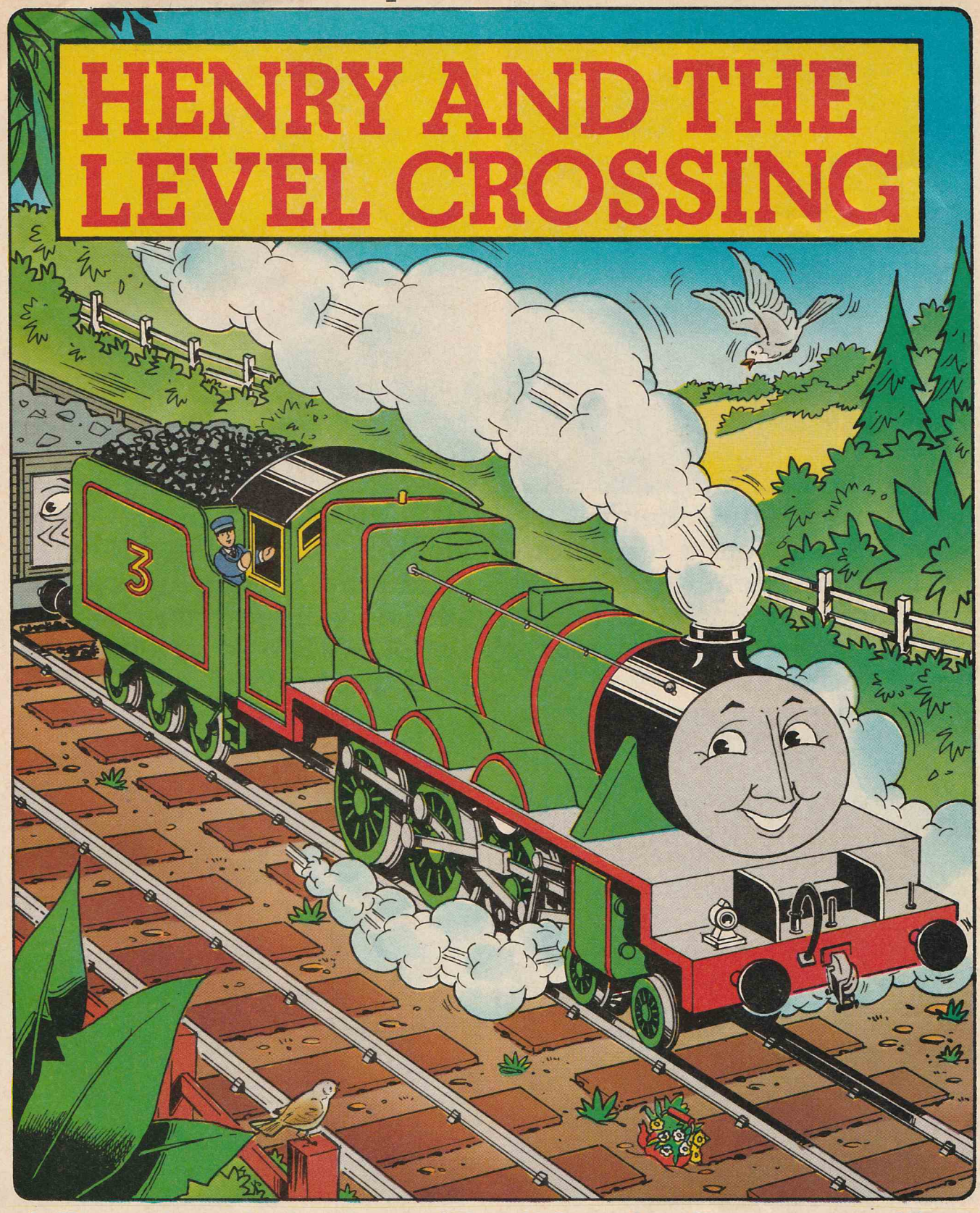
ABC

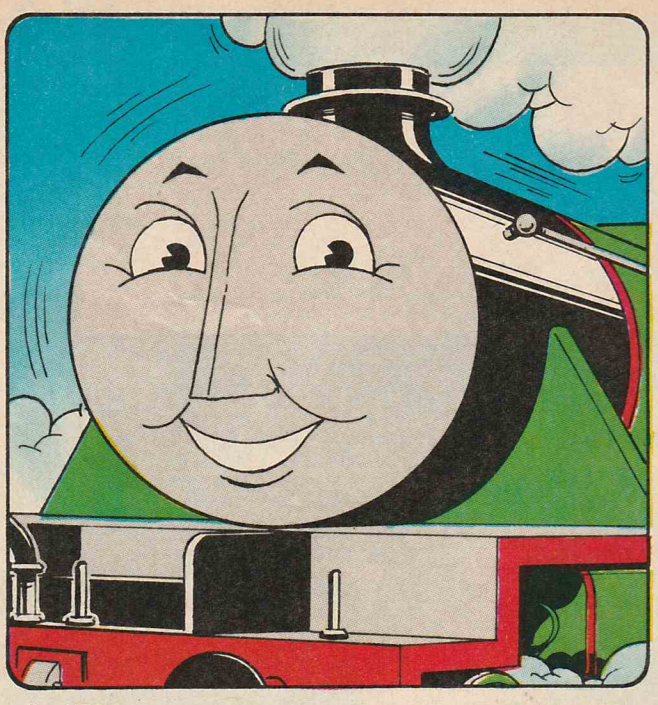
A listen and look story!

HENRY AND THE LEVEL CROSSING

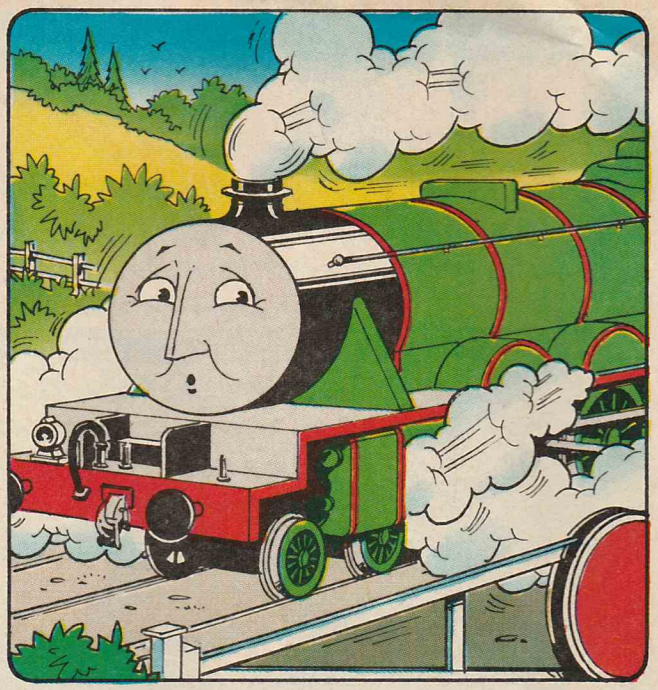


1. Henry is a long, powerful tender engine. Though he can be quite temperamental, Henry works very hard and is a Really Useful Engine on the Fat Controller's railway.

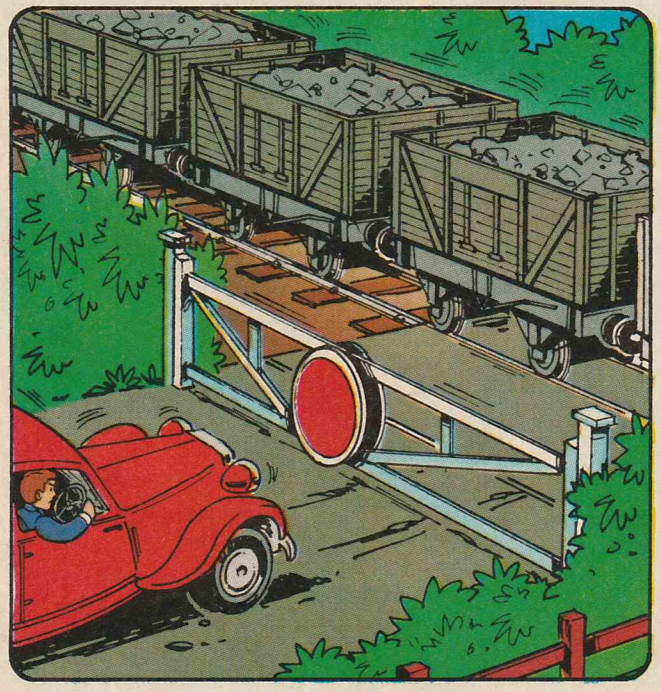
2. One day Henry was pulling a heavy goods train on the mainline. Henry didn't mind pulling heavy trains, but he was late. "We need to go faster," said his driver.



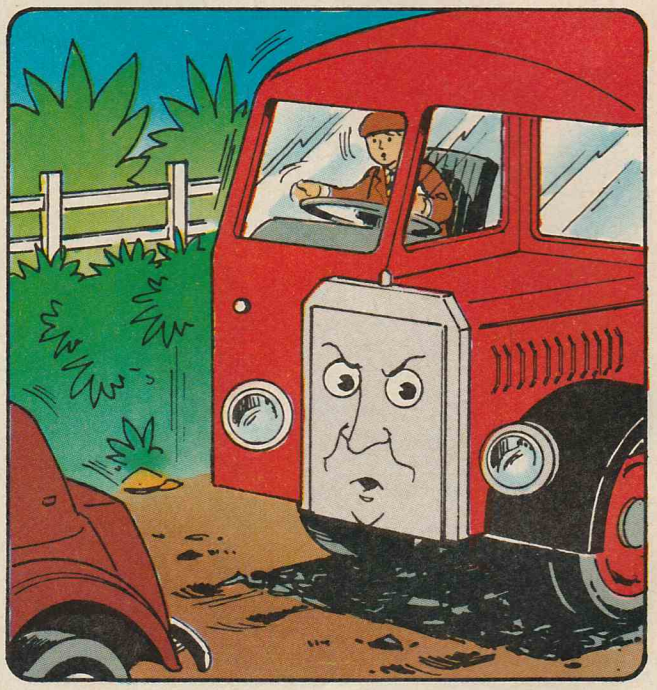
3. "I'll try," said Henry. His fireman shovelled on more coal. Henry could feel the pressure building up inside his big boiler. He had much more steam now.



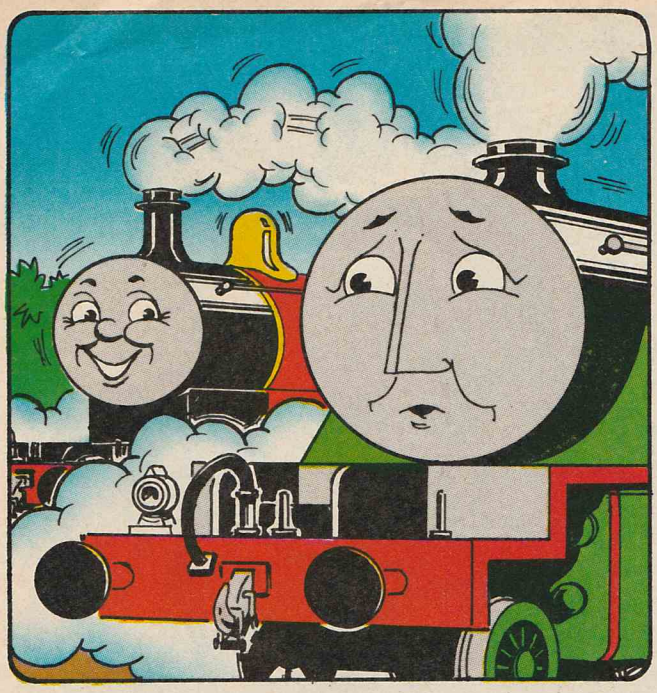
4. "Hurry! Hurry!" sang Henry. He was working hard and gradually picking up speed. Suddenly, there came a loud noise! **Pweesh!** Poor Henry had burst a valve!



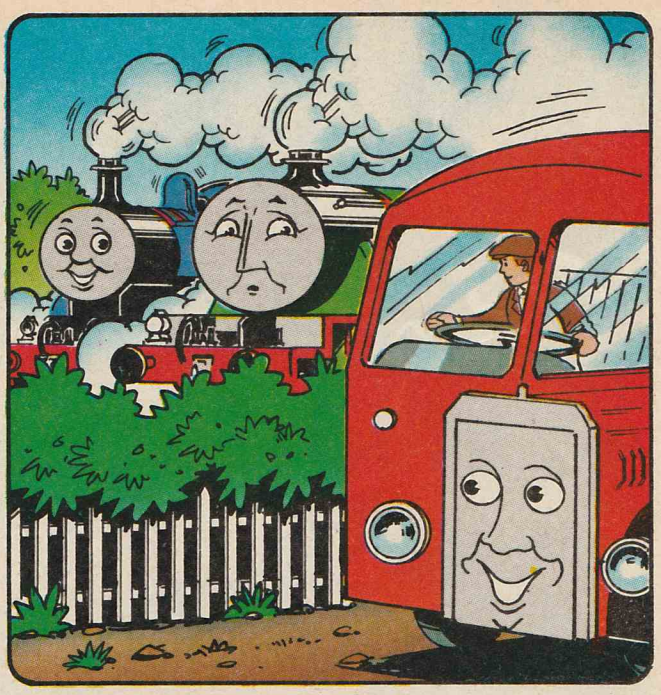
5. Henry's driver applied the brakes and Henry stopped, just beyond the level crossing. But his long line of trucks stretched over the level crossing, blocking the traffic.



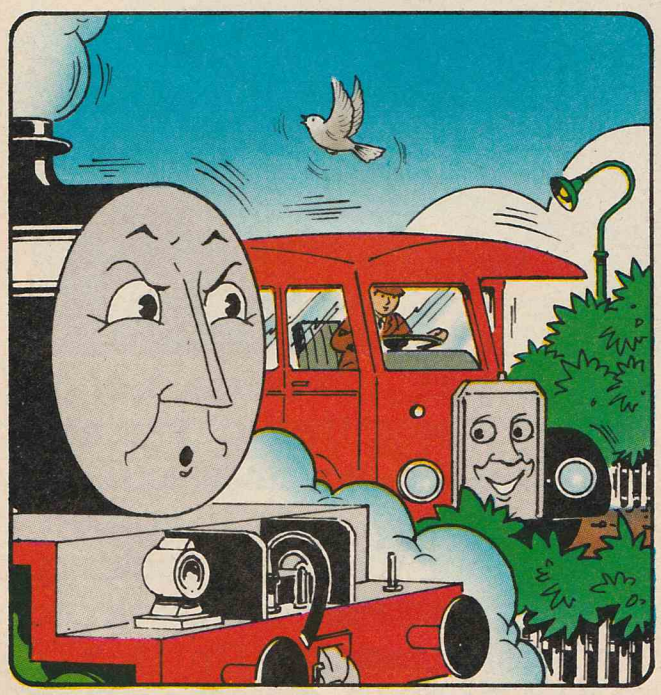
6. Bertie the Bus was one of the vehicles in the traffic jam. "Beep! Beep!" he called. "Move along, Henry! I have passengers aboard, you know. You're making me very late!"



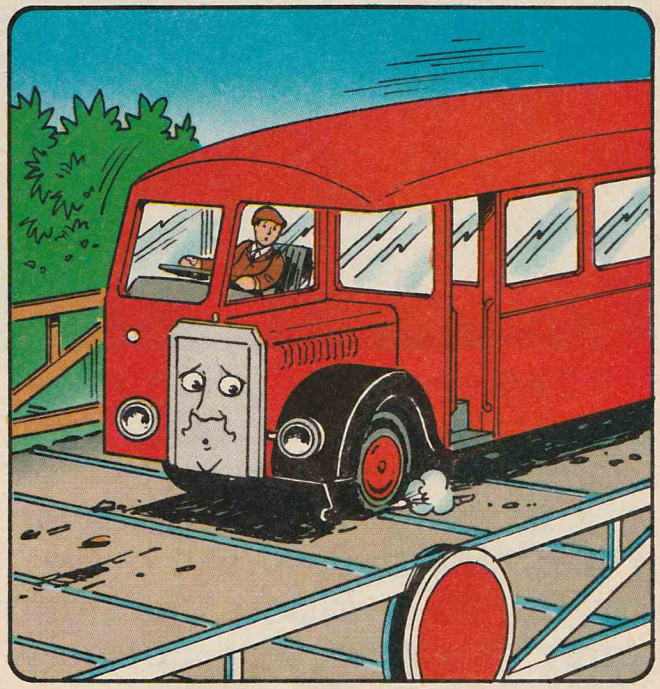
7. Henry felt silly, but he just couldn't move. Soon, James arrived with an engineer to replace Henry's valve. Everyone was pleased when Henry finally moved!



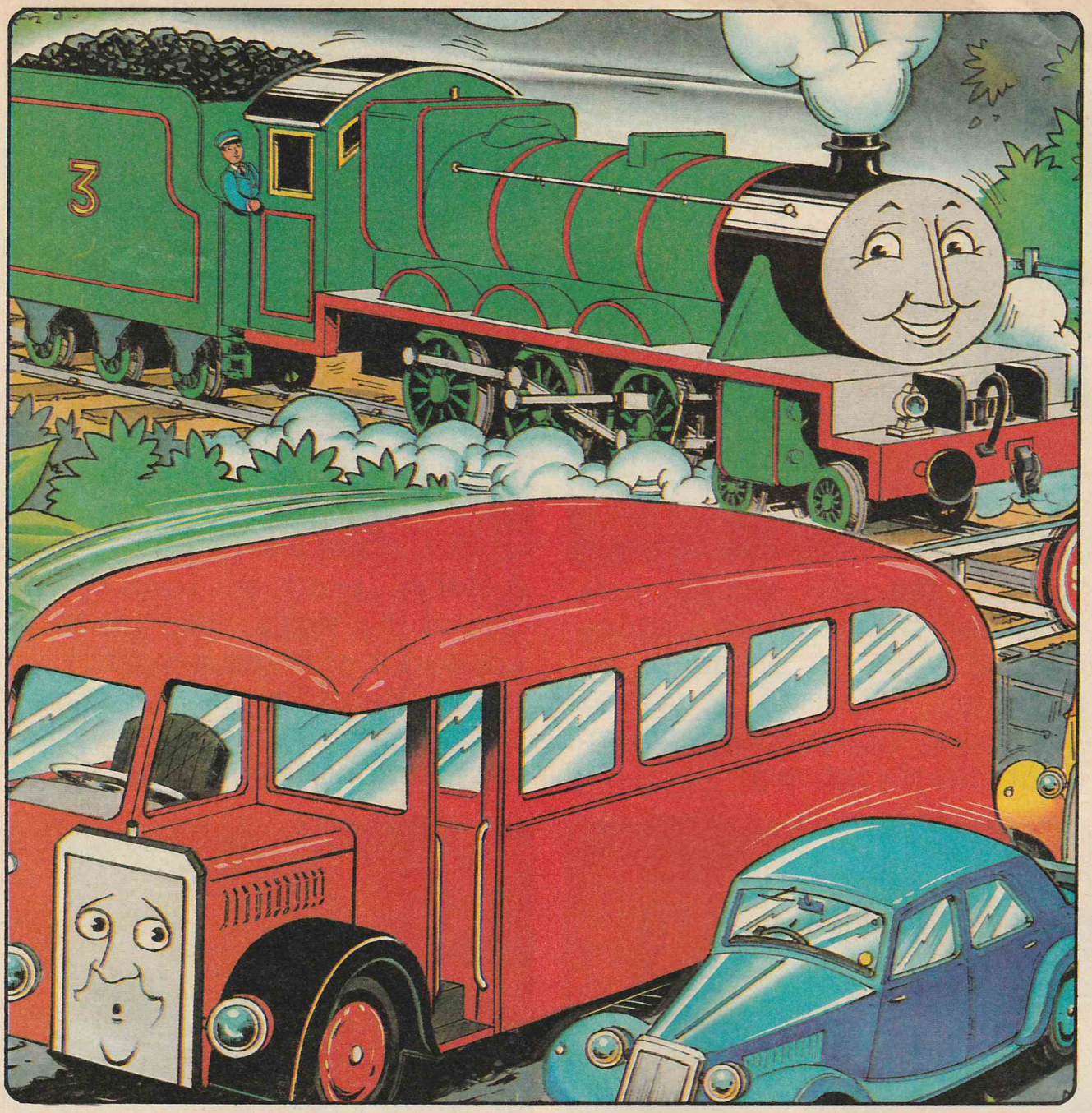
8. Henry tried to forget all about the traffic jam he had caused, but Bertie wouldn't let him. "Henry stops on level crossings as if they were railway stations," Bertie teased.



9. Henry didn't like to be teased. "Don't you have a bus stop to go to?" he asked Bertie. "Oh, don't burst a valve!" laughed Bertie. Poor Henry was crosser than ever!



10. Every time Bertie saw Henry he continued to tease. Then one day as Bertie was going over a level crossing he punctured a tyre. **Pwoof!** He had to stop to have it changed.



11. Bertie was not going to be caught out like Henry. He kept on going until he was clear of the crossing. Then his driver put on the brakes and pulled up by the roadside. Unfortunately, the road was not very wide and the cars had to drive very slowly to squeeze past Bertie. Soon there was a long queue. Just then, Bertie heard a familiar whistle!

12. "Pip, pip, pip! Move along, Bertie!" It was Henry. "I'm not blocking the crossing!" called Bertie crossly. "No," agreed Henry, "but you are blocking the cars and they are stuck on the level crossing!" "Oh, dear," sighed Bertie, just as the other cars behind started loudly honking their horns. It was poor Berties turn to cause a traffic jam now!

THE END

In our next issue: Duck's service!

Stick with UHU

Look at our lovely sunny holiday picture. Can you imagine yourself having fun there? What would you be doing? Swimming? Fishing? Making sand castles? Use UHU glue to make a collage picture of yourself and add it to our scene. You can make it with paper, card, cloth, or whatever you like - the more unusual the better.
100 runner-up UHU Colour Stics to be won. The glue that changes colour as it dries, so you can see where you're sticking.

RULES;

1. This competition is open to all readers of Postman Pat, Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends and Playdays, who are aged below 16 years other than families of UHU UK, their agents, the above named publications or anyone connected with this competition.
2. All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form.
3. Entries must be received by 31/10/91 when the competition will close.
4. It is a condition of entry that the rules of the competition are accepted as final and that competitors agree to abide by the rules.
5. All entries will be judged by a panel of judges appointed by UHU UK including one member independent of UHU UK and their agents.
6. The judges' decision shall be final and no correspondence may be entered into.
7. Entries will not be returnable, they and the copyright in them will become the property of UHU UK.
8. All prize winners will be notified by post by 31/10/91.
9. A list of the names and counties of the winners will be made available after 31/10/91 to anyone applying to the competition address and enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope marked "Results".

So get stuck in, then fill in the details below and send it all to:
UHU Competitions, PO Box 967, BATH BA2 3ZE.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature of parent _____

UHU®

Competition Closes
31/10/91

Put yourself in the picture and win a Raleigh bike.

Plus-100 runner-up UHU Colour Glue Stics to be won.

4 TO BE WON

"We reserve the right to alter the prizes without prior notification"

A read-aloud story!

The Lost W

The Fat Controller works very hard running his railway. He expects his engines to keep good time, and often looks at his pocket watch to check that trains keep to their schedules.

One day, as Thomas returned from his branch line, the Fat Controller was waiting by the Main Station.

"I'm not late, am I, sir?" asked Thomas, politely.

"I think you are precisely on time, Thomas!" replied the Fat Controller. "I will just check my watch!"

The Fat Controller put his hand to his pocket and gasped in surprise. "Gracious! My watch has gone!" he exclaimed. "I must have lost it!"

The Fat Controller was very worried. He asked the Stationmaster and all the firemen if they had seen his precious pocket watch – but no-one had!

pocket watch

"How can I run my railway efficiently without my watch?" sighed the Fat Controller sadly.

Luckily, the Stationmaster had a spare pocket watch which he kindly agreed to lend the Fat Controller.

"Thank you," said the Fat Controller. "You know, my pocket watch was given to me by Lady Topham Hatt. She will be very upset too!" he told the Stationmaster.

"We will help you look for your watch, sir," suggested Edward.

"Yes," agreed Percy, "all your engines can help!"

The Fat Controller was pleased with Edward's idea.

That evening he spoke to the engines outside the shed and told them of his lost pocket watch.

The next morning, every engine on the railway had heard about the missing watch. As they carried passengers up and down the lines, shunted trucks or ran back and forth to the Big Harbour, they looked out for the Fat Controller's watch while they worked.

Watch

Annie and Clarabel were searched thoroughly as were Gordon's coaches. But the watch was nowhere to be seen.

"I can't think where it could be!" sighed the Fat Controller sadly. "We have hunted everywhere for it!"

The Fat Controller had almost given up hope of finding his watch, but he carried on working. He had to visit Bill and Ben up at the quarry. There had been trouble with the trucks.

When the Fat Controller arrived at the quarry he saw Bill give a truck an extra big shove, to teach it a lesson. The truck went clattering down a siding.

The siding was hardly ever used and thick weeds grew all along the edge of the track.

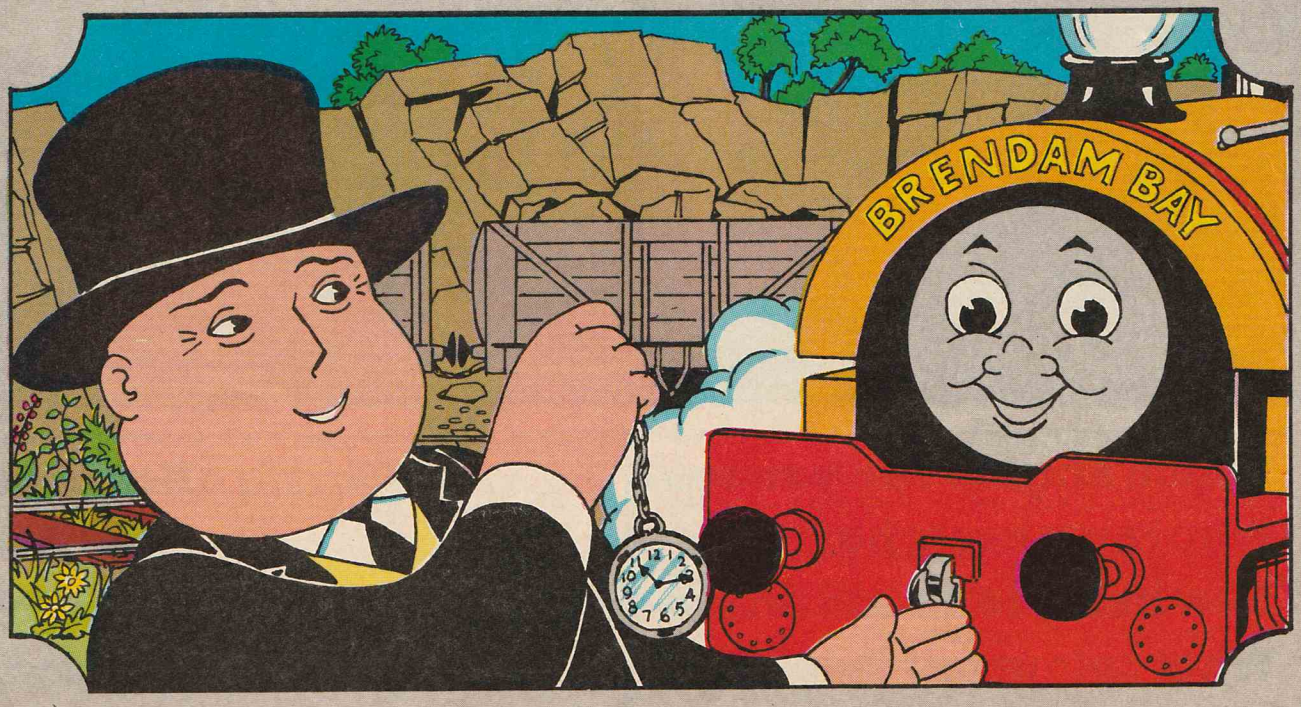
The truck bumped against the buffers at the end of the siding with a loud 'BANG!' The Fat Controller went to inspect the damage.

As he reached the truck, he noticed something gleaming among the weeds, by the track.

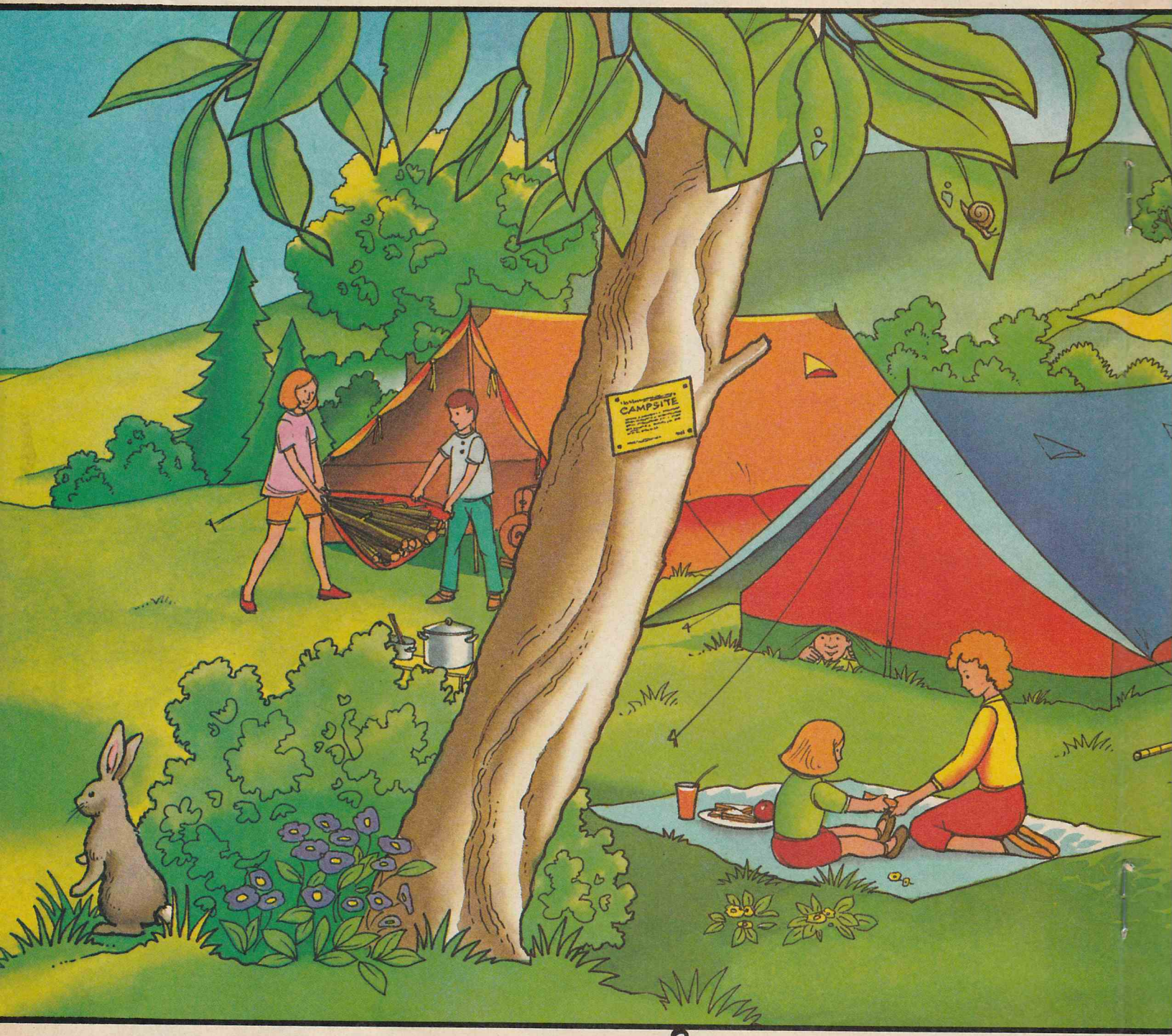
"Gracious!" he gasped. "It's my pocket watch! I must have dropped it here!"

Now the Fat Controller remembered he had been inspecting that siding the day before. He was so pleased to find his pocket watch that he was not even cross with Bill or Ben for being mischievous. In fact, he was pleased that they had helped him find his watch!

THE END



Past the ca



Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

How many tents are on the campsite?

What colour are they?

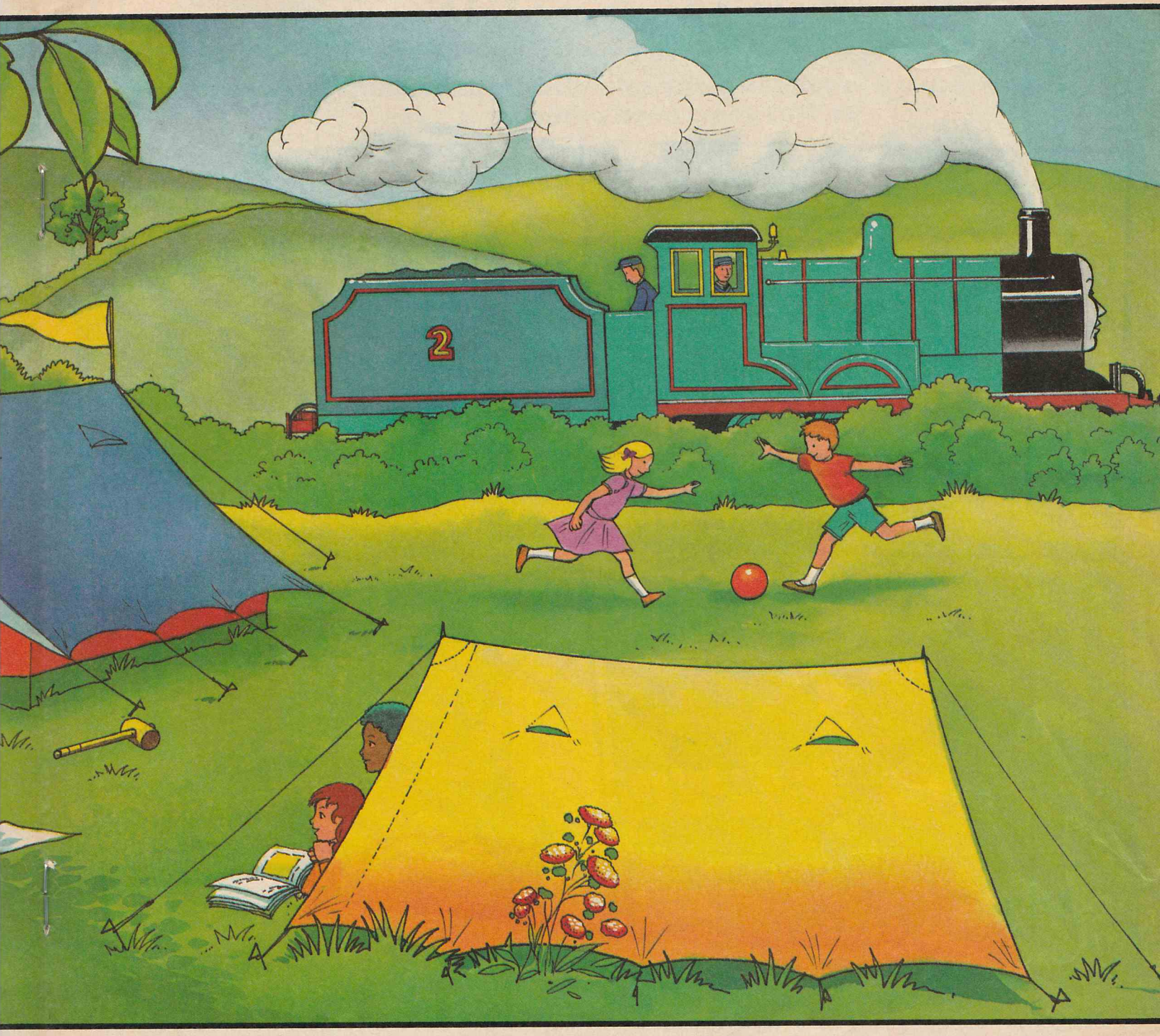
How many people

Point to the shiny,

What colour is the

Can you see the ti

ampsite!



eople are having a picnic?

shiny, red apple!

is the flag?

the tiny snail?

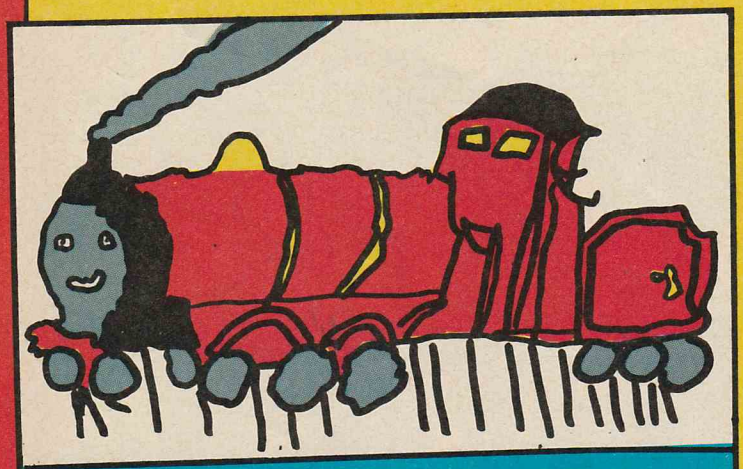
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

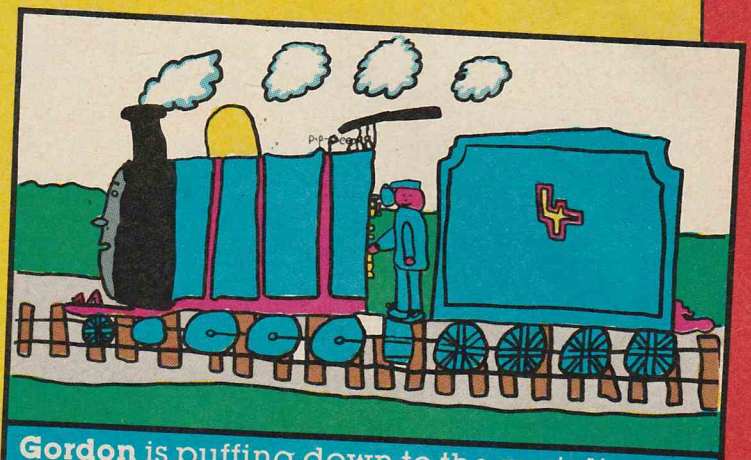
Next issue: Behind the watermill!

YOUR DRAWINGS for the Fat Controller

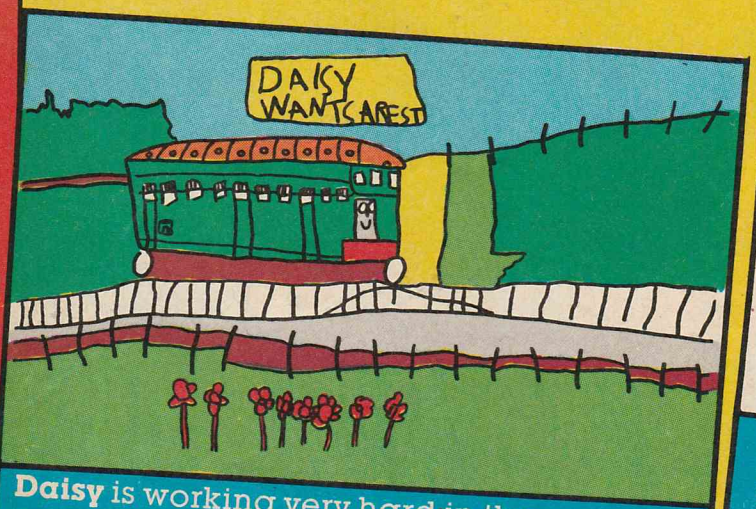
Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Has yours been printed this week?



This very bright picture of **James** was drawn by **Gareth Beard** from Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire! Well done **Gareth!**



Gordon is puffing down to the mainline to collect the Express. This very noble looking drawing of Gordon was sent in by **Michael**, aged 7.

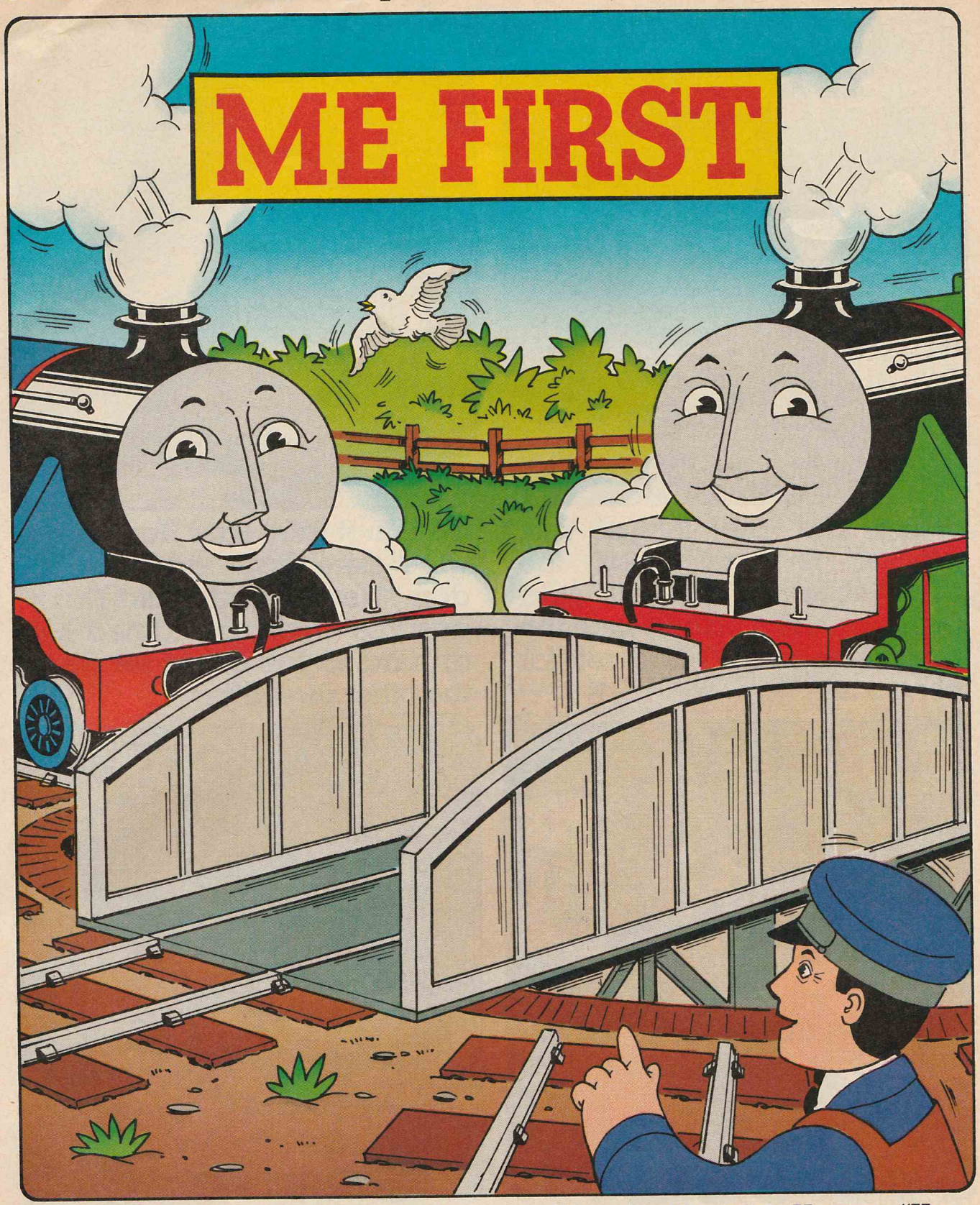


Daisy is working very hard in the countryside. **Daniel Pawinski** from Salisbury has captured the scene very well!

Thomas and **Bertie** are very good friends! **Joanna Essex** from Backwell, near Bristol, has drawn them both in this colourful scene!

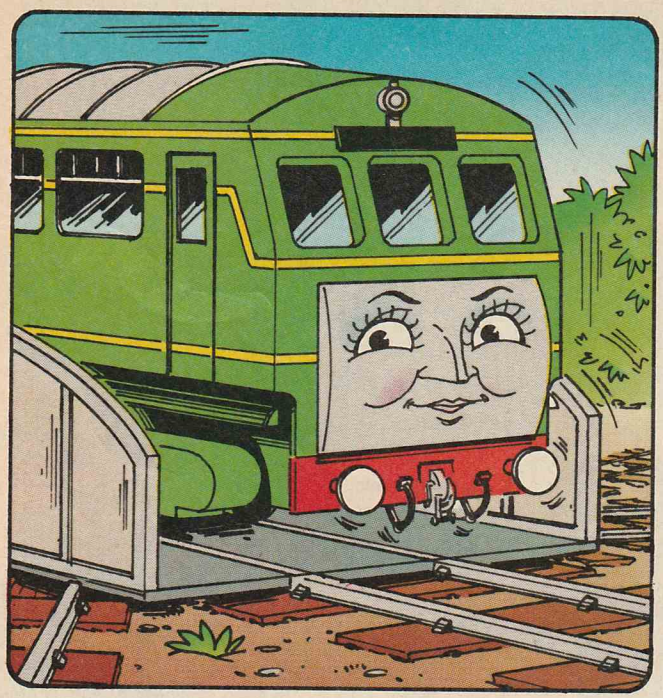
Thank you all for sending in your lovely pictures – sorry that we don't have enough room to print them all in this issue! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in one of our future issues, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

A listen and look story!

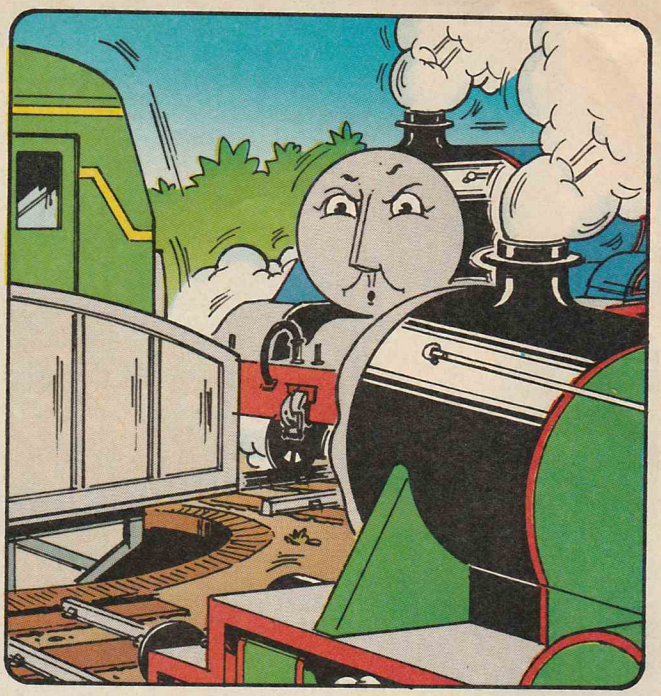


1. It was a splendid day on the Island of Sodor. Gordon and Henry were waiting to go on the turntable. "Which of you is first?" asked the turntable operator.

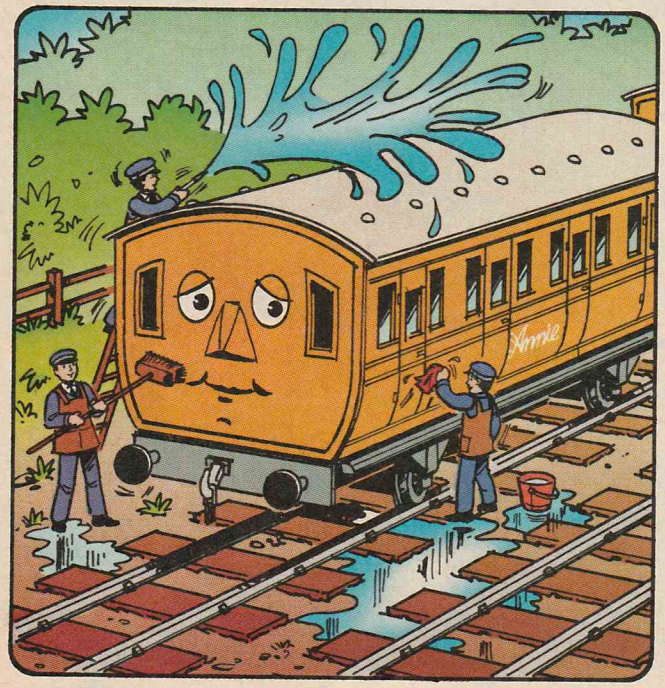
2. "I'm first," said Henry. "Yes, he is," agreed Gordon. "He was here before me." But before the operator had pulled his lever, he heard another engine whistle.



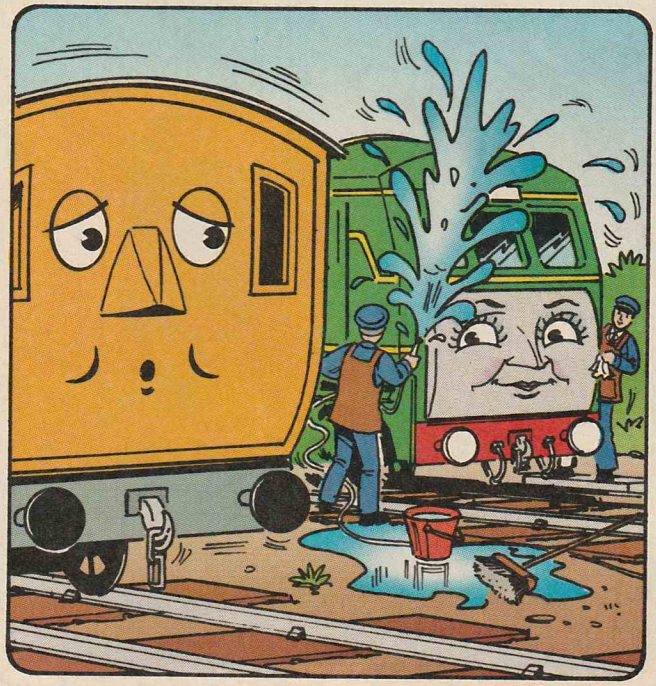
3. "Pip, pip, pip! Excuse me, please!" It was Daisy, the diesel railcar. "Me first!" said Daisy, and she rushed onto the turntable, which was set for her track!



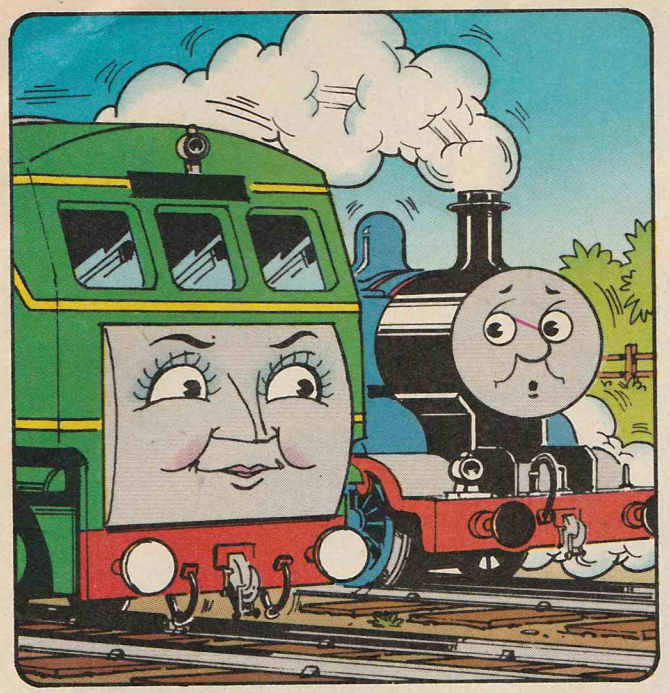
4. "It's not fair!" said Henry. "We were here first!" added Gordon. "Never mind," said Daisy and the operator turned her around so she could set off in the other direction.



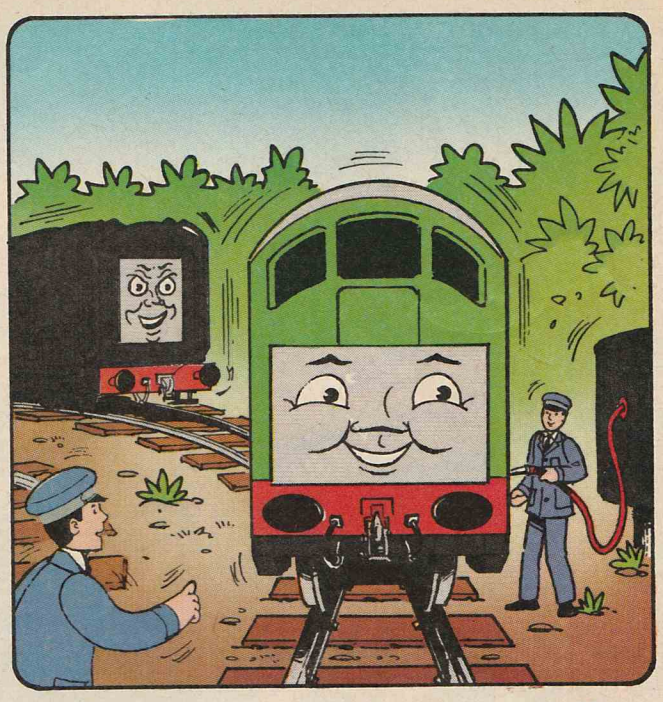
5. Meanwhile, Annie and Clarabel were in the yard. The workmen were washing them with hoses and long brushes, so they would be clean when Thomas came to collect them.



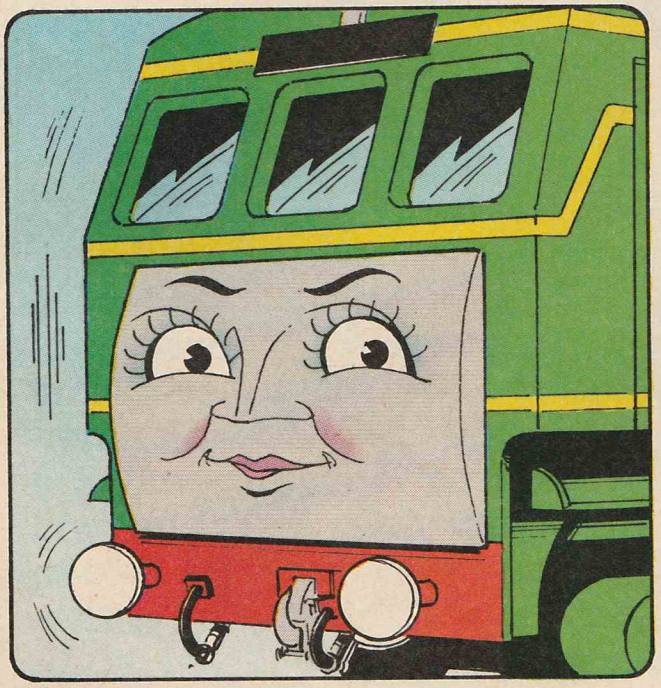
6. "Pip, pip, pip! Excuse me!" whistled Daisy. "I need a wash too! Me first! Engines always come before coaches!" The men turned their hoses and brushes to Daisy.



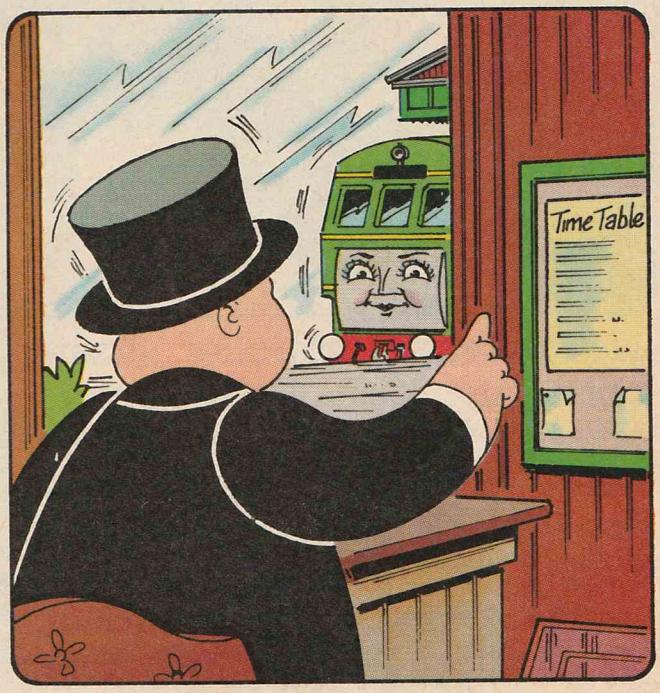
7. Annie and Clarabel were very cross and when Thomas arrived the coaches weren't ready! "Never mind!" said Daisy and off she went to fill up with diesel fuel.



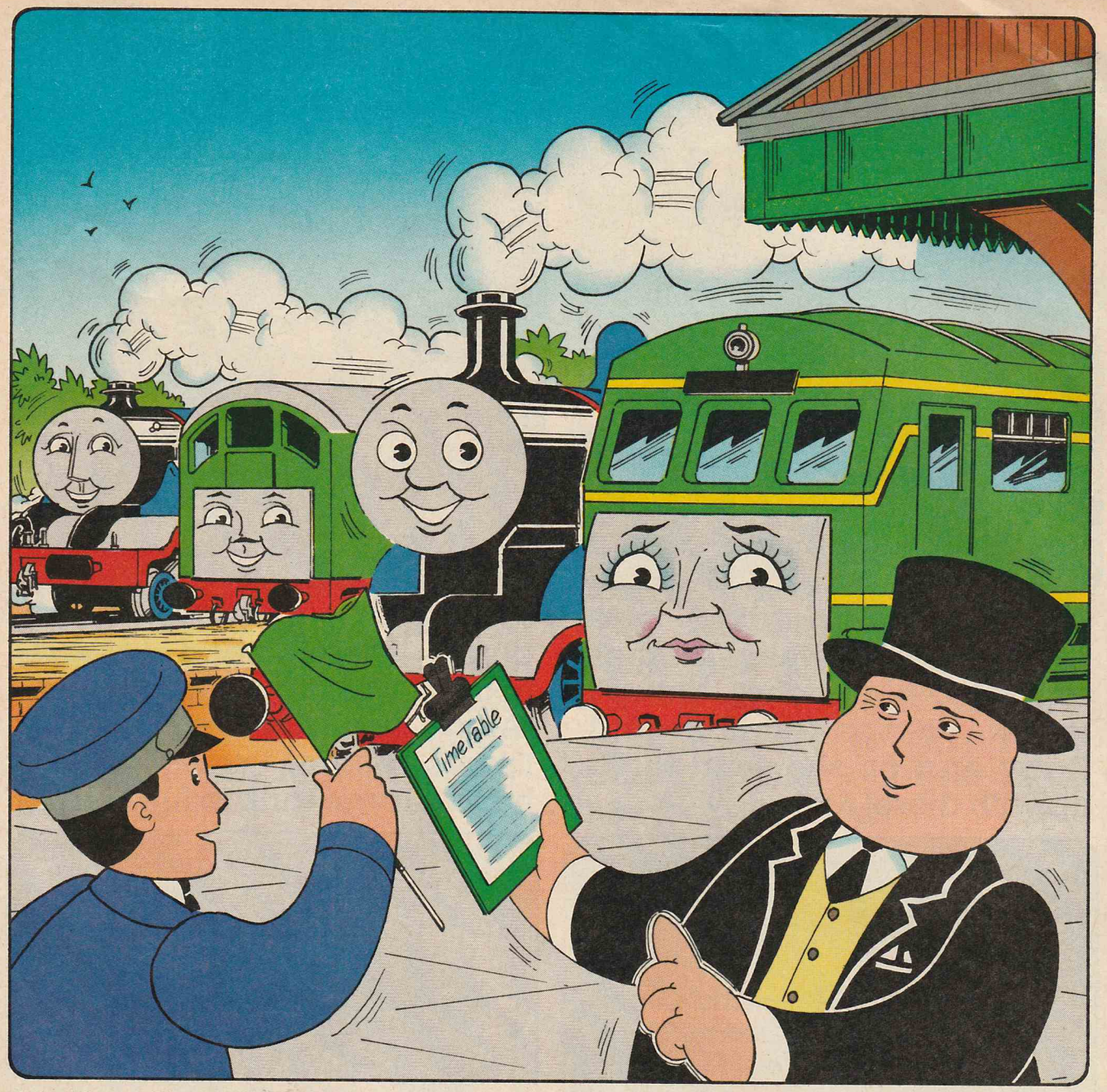
8. There was a queue at the pump. Diesel stood behind Boco, waiting impatiently. "Aren't you full yet?" asked Diesel. "Almost," said Boco. "I have a large tank to fill!"



9. "Pip, pip, pip! Excuse me!" Daisy backed down the track to stand in front of Boco. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Diesel, crossly. "Daisy! I'm next!" "Never mind!" said Daisy.



10. Daisy was ready to go now. She hurried over to the platform. The Fat Controller saw her through his office window. Then he looked at the timetable on the wall.



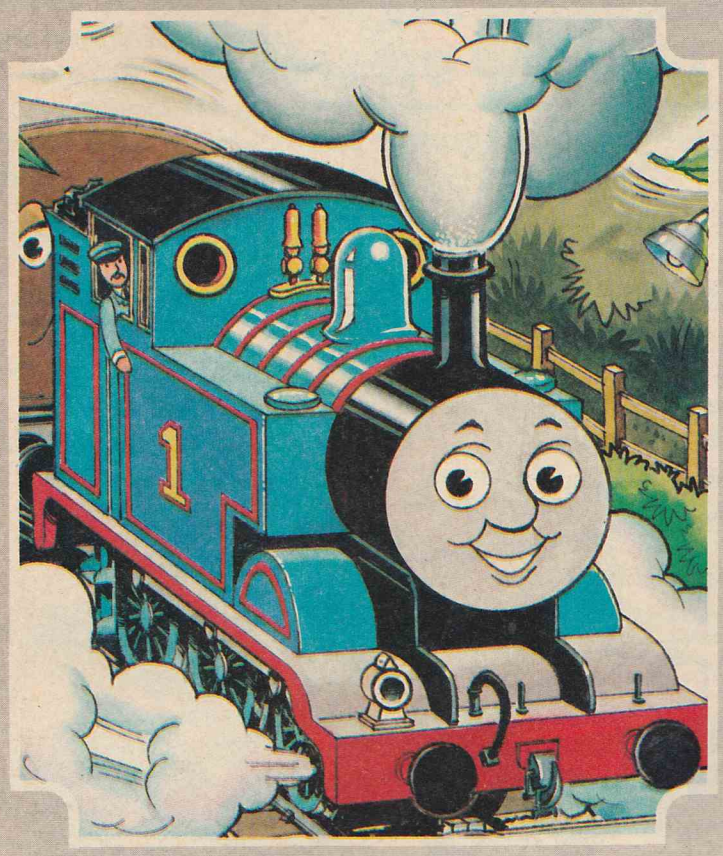
11. The Fat Controller came out of his office. "Hullo, Daisy," he said. "What are you doing here?" "I've come for my passengers of course, sir," said Daisy. "But you're much too early," said the Fat Controller. "According to the timetable, your train is not due to leave for another hour." "I'm nice and early then," said Daisy with a smile.

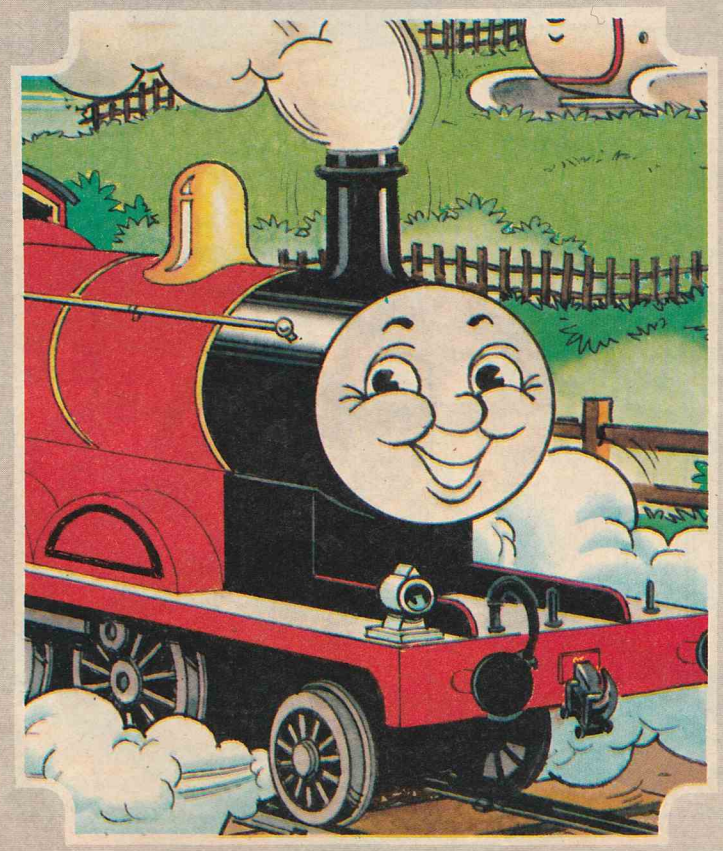
12. "This is very inconvenient," said the Fat Controller. "If my trains don't keep to their timetables, my railway will be disrupted and everyone will get very cross." So Daisy had to wait until Gordon, Henry, Thomas, Boco and Diesel each left with their trains. Daisy didn't push in front of other engines and say "me first," for a long time!

THE END

In our next issue: Boco and Diesel!

Subscribe...





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Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for a year. I will allow 42 days for delivery.

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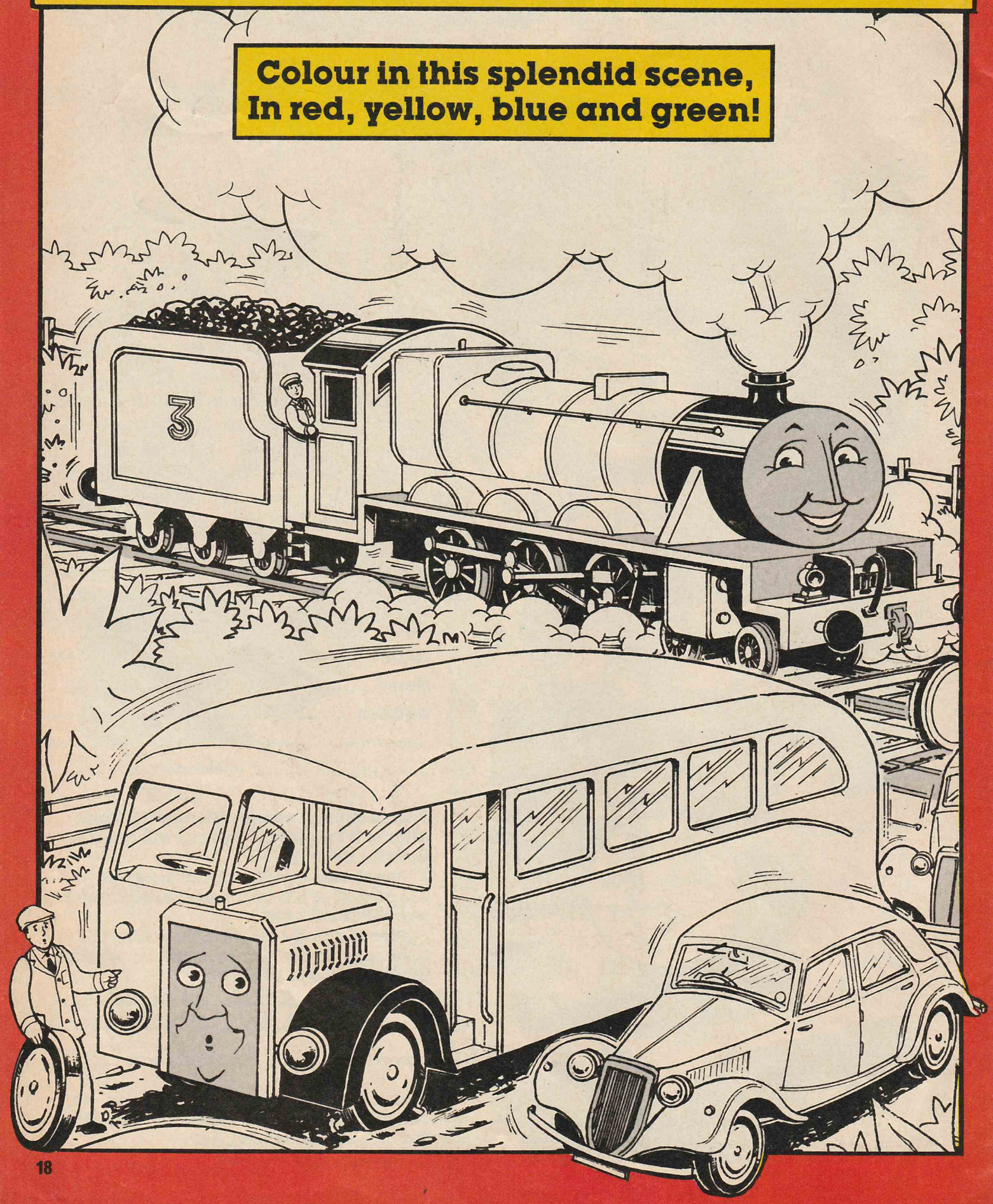
☐ Please charge £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) to my Visa/MasterCard. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Signature ..... Expiry date .....

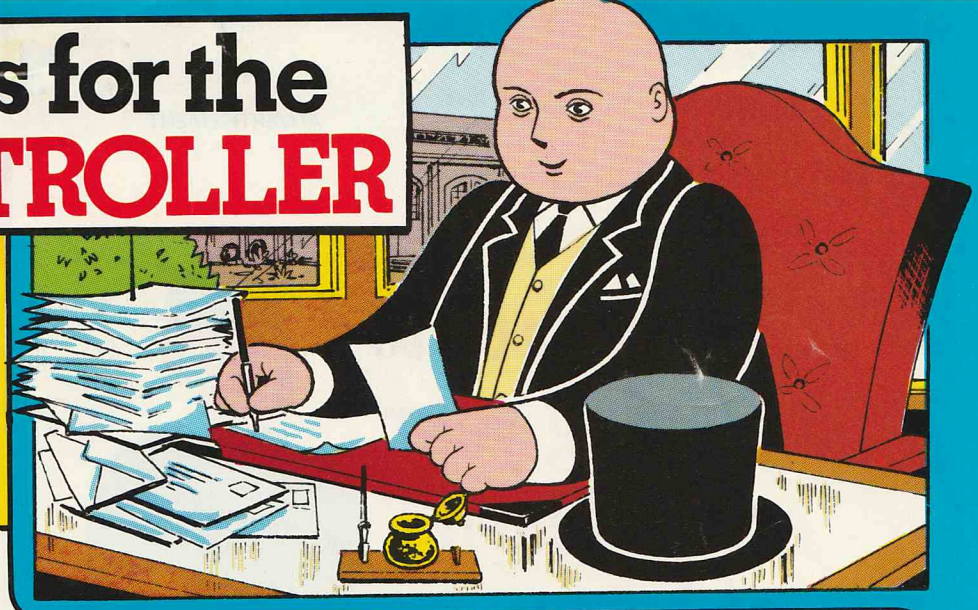
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

COLOURING TIME!

Colour in this splendid scene,
In red, yellow, blue and green!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Mummy, Daddy and I have a new house next to a railway station. I often see trains just like Thomas, James and Toby go by and I run to the bottom of the garden and wave them Bye-bye!
Love from **Jamie**, aged 3.

Isn't it lovely to watch engines at work. As you know, I also live very close to the Main Station on the Island of Sodor. I often see my trains puffing by while I am working in my study!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas, James** and **Henry 3-piece diecast set** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Dear Fat Controller,
The postman always brings me my **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** magazine, and now I know how he gets it to me from the Island of Sodor! The story about Percy taking the post train in issue 70 was my favourite. Please tell Percy to keep on bringing the magazines and taking our letters to you! Love from **Jason**, aged 4.

Indeed I will, Jason! I am sure that Percy will be very pleased when he hears how much you appreciate his hard work!

FISHY ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have two goldfishes called James and Donald! Do you have any goldfishes on your railway?
Love from **Ben**, aged 7.

***Gracious me!** I do not have any goldfish on my railway, but I do have two very splendid engines and they are also called James and Donald!*

BIRTHDAYS!

Birthday greetings go out to the following:
Lee White (31323), Michael Rhodes, Daniel Rolfe (34277), Richard Woodmansey, Gavin Rollings, Alexander Smith, Liam Thomas Parker, Adam Corbett (32799), Simon Christopher Bown (31710), Ievan Wyn Prichard, Vijaiya Prashan (31829), Richard Dunn (30957), Christopher Tunstalls (35543), Patrick Newman (31496), Daniel James White (31699), James Burman (13905), Christopher Vreony (21356), Matthew Cooke (19368), Sarah Moxom (31039), Steven Paul Sadler.
If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best. **Yours,**

Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

ADVERTISEMENT

The secret to helping your child learn at home

When my first child, Ben, started to show an interest in books, I thought it a good time to help him learn to read. I had always assumed it would be easy to get advice – after all, so many official surveys have proved that children whose parents help them at home do better at school.

I went to our local library and was astonished to find that they didn't stock a single book on how to teach a child to read!

This happened three years ago and

It made me realise that there are lots more things I could be doing with Sophie to improve her abilities.

Ben is now at school. But his four-year-old sister Sophie is now starting to show an interest in learning and I'd really like to help her at home.

No wonder, then, that an article in the Daily Telegraph caught my eye, recommending a new publication for parents called **Right Start.** The magazine had been launched to give parents of three- to six-year-olds advice and back-up on how to give their children the best start in education.

Would this contain the information I had been looking for? I was immediately impressed with the contents. Not the dull 'educational looking' publication I had expected, but a bright, colourful magazine which presented information in a very lively way.

The **Right Start** pack includes a high quality activity book which is packed with educational activities for three- to six-year-olds. They are introduced to reading, writing and numbers, as well as science and music. The book is actually a very subtle way to get inquisitive young minds interested in early learning. The activities are carefully graded and revolve around the adventures of animal characters who live in the village of Muddy Bottom. All my children loved it!

The parents' magazine manages to include an impressive amount of information. I was fascinated to read the feature "Discover your child's potential" as it made me realise that there are lots more things I could be doing with Sophie to improve her abilities! I also enjoyed "Countdown", which explained the right way to introduce you child to numbers.

And there at last was the information I had been looking for on teaching your child to read. I had read bits on the sub-

There at last was the information I had been looking for on teaching your child to read.

ject in other magazines, but never in the depth that **Right Start** covered it.

I shall continue to buy **Right Start** – it's excellent value for money. I only wish it had been published three years ago when Ben was small.

Lucy Brown,
Lightwater,
Surrey

Free starter pack

"I was struck by its content. There's information about the different methods of teaching a child to read, about how children begin to tackle basic mathematical concepts, about how to choose a school ... puzzles and activities for children, book and toy reviews, and 'Ask the experts'."
Dr Jane French, Daily Telegraph

Free pack!

YOUR FREE PACK CONTAINS:

1. Right Start magazine for *you*
2. Activity book for your child, *linked to* ...
3. Nursery rhyme and story cassette
4. Sturdy keepsake folder
5. Crayola colouring pencils

Right Start is published every two months. Use this coupon to request your free starter pack. It's a FREEPOST address so you don't need a stamp. Due to the weight, your free activity book and cassette may be sent under separate cover.

SEND NO MONEY, NO STAMP NEEDED

To: Right Start magazine, FREEPOST, Romford RM6 1BR.

Yes please send me my Right Start pack free. I understand you will delay my payment for one month. If I do not wish to subscribe, I will write to my bank and cancel my order. All the material I have received is mine to keep.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

To _____ (name of bank)

Branch code _____

Acct no _____

Acct in the name of _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Standing order

Please pay to the order of Right Start magazine, account no 08666822 at National Westminster Bank plc, Holborn Circus 56 00 20, the sum of £5.85 *one month from the date received* and half yearly thereafter, being my subscription to Right Start, and debit my/our account accordingly until countermanded by me in writing. 1JGL

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